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CITY'S IMPROVED CONSTRUCTION RATING COULD MEAN INSURANCE SAVINGS

INDIANAPOLIS – The Department of Code Enforcement (DCE) today announced the city's independent insurance rating has greatly improved for commercial and residential construction, according to the independent Insurance Services Office, Inc (ISO). The improvement could result in property insurance savings on future construction.

The ISO is an independent statistical, rating and advisory organization that serves the property/casualty insurance industry. ISO collects information on a municipality's building code adoption and enforcement services, analyzes the data and assigns a classification from 1 to 10, with a rating of one representing an exemplary commitment to building code enforcement. In 2011 the city received a 4 rating for commercial construction and a 5 rating for residential. In 2003, the last time the city was reviewed, Indianapolis received a 7 in both categories.

"This improvement is a huge win for Indianapolis that could result in lower property insurance premiums for commercial and residential building owners," said Mayor Greg Ballard. "It will make Indianapolis even more attractive for economic growth and lower the cost for people thinking about living in our city."

Improvements reflected in the ISO rating include maximizing efficiencies in processes, state of the art technologies, mobile offices, employment-dependent staff certifications, comprehensive commercial/residential plan review, an increased number of building inspections and an overall increase in quality of permitting and inspection practices.

"The possibility of minimizing catastrophe-related damage and ultimately lowering future insurance costs provides an incentive for DCE to rigorously enforce building codes," said Rick Powers, Director of the Department of Code Enforcement.

Indianapolis was one of just eight Indiana communities to receive a rating of four for commercial construction and improved to a rating of five for residential construction.

The mission of the Department of Code Enforcement (DCE) is to improve the quality of life in the City of Indianapolis through strategic application of civil code regulation; effective licensing, permitting, inspection, enforcement, and abatement practices; and local government oversight of property safety and maintenance, business, event, professional, and construction industries.

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